

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /092 W
 -----127528 230916Z /21

R 230751Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3462
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL KRAKOW POUCH
AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH
USMISSION USNATO
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 1508

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: EIND, EAIR, ETRD, PL, UR, COMECOM EALR
SUBJ: POLISH-SOVIET COOPERATION IN AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION: POLISH FIRM
TO PRODUCE THE AN-28

1. SUMMARY:. POLAND HAS SIGNED A PROTOCOL WITH THE USSR
UNDER WHICH THE POLISH AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY WILL BEGIN
PRODUCTION OF THE SOVIET-DESIGNED AN-28, A SMALL, SHORT-
RANGE TURBOPROP AIRCRAFT. THE PLANE WILL BE MANU-
FACTURED BY THE POLISH FIRM PEZETEL, WHICH HAS COOPERATION
AGREEMENTS WITH FIRMS IN THE US AND WESTERN EUROPE AND
CURRENTLY PRODUCES LIGHT AIRCRAFT FOR AGRICULTURE AND
OTHER USES. THE EMBASSY REGARDS THE CONCLUSION OF THIS
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PROTOCOL, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN EXPEDITED DURING THE VISIT
OF POLISH PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ TO MOSCOW IN JANUARY, AS ANOTHER
INCREMENTAL STEP IN POLAND'S CLOSER INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION
WITH THE USSR AND COMECON. END SUMMARY.

2. THE POLISH PRESS ON FEB 20 AND 21 ANNOUNCED THE
SIGNATURE IN WARSAW ON FEB 18 OF A PROTOCOL FOR POLISH

PRODUCTION OF THE SOVIET-DESIGNED AN-28 AIRCRAFT. THE PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED BY POLISH MINISTER OF MACHINE INDUSTRY ALEXANDER KOPEC AND FOR THE USSR BY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION BORIS BUGAYEV AND MINISTER OF AVIATION INDUSTRY VASIL KAZAKOV. SOVIET AIRCRAFT DESIGNED OLEG ANTONOV ALSO TOOK PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE SIGNING CEREMONIES FOLLOWED THREE DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH BEGAN IN WARSAW ON FEBRUARY 15 AND WERE ORIGINALLY REPORTED IN THE PRESS AS "PRELIMINARY TALKS" FOR CLOSER POLISH-SOVIET COOPERATION IN AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION.

3. THE AN-28, AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, IS NOT YET IN PRODUCTION IN THE SOVIET UNION. IT IS DESCRIBED AS A SMALL, SHORT-RANGE PASSENGER AIRCRAFT CARRYING BETWEEN 15 AND 20 PASSENGERS OR BETWEEN 1500 AND 1700 KILOGRAMS OF CARGO AND HAVING A CRUISING RANGE OF 300 TO 350 KILOMETERS. IT HAS UNUSUALLY SHORT TAKE-OFF AND LANDING REQUIREMENTS AND IS POWERED BY TWO TURBOPROP ENGINES. THE PROTOCOL SPECIFIES ALL PROCEDURES FOR DELIVERY OF THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY AND DOCUMENTATION FOR MANUFACTURE OF THE AIRCRAFT IN POLAND. ACCORDING TO A FEB 20 TRYBUNA LUDU ARTICLE, PRODUCTION WILL BEGIN SOON.

4. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, THE PROTOCOL HAS BEEN THE OCCASION FOR CONSIDERABLE DRUM BEATING ON THE IMPORTANCE AND SUCCESS OF SOVIET COOPERATION WITH POLAND IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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AVIATION INDUSTRY. DESIGNER ANTONOV IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IT NOT ONLY HAS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE EXPANSION OF POLISH AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION, BUT ALSO ASSURES POLAND OF LONG-TERM, LARGE-SCALE EXPORTS OF AIRCRAFT TO THE USSR AND OTHER "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES. ELSEWHERE, THE PRESS NOTES THAT CLOSE COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE USSR -- WHICH HELPED THE POLISH AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY GET BACK INTO PRODUCTION QUICKLY AFTER THE RAVAGES OF WORLD WAR II -- ASSURES THE SUCCESS OF THIS NEW VENTURE.

5. COMMENT: THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS AGREEMENT CONFIRMS A REPORT THE EMBASSY RECEIVED LAST FALL THAT THE PEZETEL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 1508

AIRCRAFT PLANT IN SOUTHEAST POLAND (WHICH
ACCOUNTS FOR ALMOST ALL OF POLAND'S AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY)
WOULD SOON BEGIN COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIETS ON CONSTRUC-
TION OF THE AN-28. AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION, ALONG WITH
ELECTRONICS AND MINING MACHINERY, WAS ALSO ONE OF THE
INDUSTRIAL SECTORS SELECTED FOR INCREASED ATTENTION IN
SOVIET-POLISH JOINT TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION
COMMISSION IN MOSCOW LATE IN 1977. PEZETEL
IS NOW PRODUCING SMALL AIRCRAFT FOR AGRICULTURE AND ALSO
HELICOPTERS, SOME OF WHICH ARE EXPORTED TO WESTERN
COUNTRIES. IT HAS VARIOUS TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL
COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH SEVERAL WESTERN FIRMS, INCLUDING PRATT
AND WHITNEY AND CESSNA IN THE US. ITS COOPERATION WITH
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WESTERN COMPANIES HAS BEEN INCREASING IN RECENT YEARS.

6. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT YET HAVE PRECISE DETAILS,
THIS NEW AGREEMENT WILL PRESUMABLY DIVERT PART OF THE PRODUCTION
OF ONE OF POLAND'S MOST ADVANCED INDUSTRIES TO THE COMECON AREA.
THUS, IT CONSTITUTES ANOTHER INCREMENTAL STEP IN CLOSER POLISH
INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION WITH THE USSR AND WITH THE STRUCTURE
OF COMECON INTEGRATION.

7. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN INTERESTED IN
AN-28 PRODUCTION AT PEZETEL FOR SOME
TIME, THE END OF JANUARY VISIT OF PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ TO MOSCOW
TO DISCUSS INCREASED POLISH-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION MAY
HAVE BEEN A FACTOR IN THE RATHER EARLY SIGNATURE OF THIS AGREEMENT.

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